

Wet Tropics Management Plan Review Phase 2



**WET
TROPICS**
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



Have your say!

The Wet Tropics Management Authority wants to hear your ideas about how we can improve the management of the World Heritage Area.

What's inside?

An improved zoning system | Reducing infrastructure impacts | Enabling appropriate visitor infrastructure |
Recognising Rainforest Aboriginal tradition | Simplified roads management | Undesirable plants and animals |
Reconfiguration or subdivision of an allotment |

See back page for how to make a submission and obtain more information.



Cooktown

Cape Tribulation

Mossman

Port Douglas

Kuranda

Cairns

Mareeba

Gordonvale

Chillagoe

Yungaburra

Atherton

Herberton

Babinda

Malanda

Millaa Millaa

Innisfail

Ravenshoe

Mission Beach

Tully

Cardwell

Ingham

Townsville

Thuringowa

Key

Wet Tropics World
Heritage Area

The Authority acknowledges Rainforest
Aboriginal People as the traditional custodians
of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and
recognise their connection to this cultural
landscape. We pay our respects to Elders past,
present and emerging.

Message from the chair



What a privilege it is to have the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area on our doorstep.

Although its 900,000 hectares comprise just 0.12% of Australia's land mass, the Area is home to Australia's greatest diversity of plants and animals, including more than 700 species of endemic plants and at least 88 species of vertebrate animals found nowhere else.

Also recognised as a timeless living cultural landscape, there are at least 20 Rainforest Aboriginal tribal groups, 120 clans and 8 language groups—currently over 20,000 people—with ongoing traditional connections to, and responsibilities for, land in the Area.

While we all feel lucky to live, work and recreate in this exceptional Area, we also have an international obligation under the World Heritage Convention to protect it—and the Wet Tropics Management Plan (1998) is the statutory instrument that supports this.

In 2017, the Wet Tropics Management Authority asked for community input into the 10-year review of this Management Plan. We undertook a broad consultation process with Rainforest Aboriginal People, landholders and all levels of government, as well as industry and the broader community.

Now, after 2,000-plus letters sent, 60-plus meetings and workshops held and 91 submissions received, we have listened, incorporated the vast majority of your aspirations and feedback, and are pleased to present proposed changes for a second round of public consultation.

The key issues—including your feedback and our responses—are outlined in this brochure. Chief among the changes you inspired is the introduction of a new Wet Tropics Strategic Plan 2020–2030, which will sit alongside the Management Plan to capture the issues you told us are the most important.

Together, these documents will form the new Wet Tropics World Heritage Plan: a new approach to World Heritage management, which embraces the spirit of cooperation and community empowerment to manage the Area into the future.

We thank you for your valuable submissions and contributions to the first phase of the review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998, and invite your submissions in this second consultation phase.

We want to know if we captured your feedback and adequately addressed the issues you raised. Please let us know by completing a submission—details on how to do this are on the back cover of this brochure.

Thank you again for your input, and we look forward to completing the Wet Tropics World Heritage Plan review in mid-2019, releasing the final documents later this year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Leslie Shirreffs'.

Leslie Shirreffs—Chair
Wet Tropics Management Authority

About the Wet Tropics Management Plan review

The Wet Tropics Management Plan

The Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 (the Management Plan) protects the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area with a zoning and permit scheme, regulating activities with the potential to affect World Heritage values.

Why review the Management Plan?

A review of the Management Plan is an opportunity for the Wet Tropics Management Authority to seek the community's views and to update the Management Plan to ensure it reflects current land management practices. Reviews are required by law every 10 years.

While the Management Plan is a regulatory instrument that the Authority uses to manage and protect the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, in practice the Authority collaborates with many partners to achieve this—that's why we are seeking your feedback in this second round of public consultation.

The review so far

The review involves two rounds of public consultation—the first concluded in 2018. Comprehensive feedback from a broad range of submissions was reviewed and incorporated into a consultation summary at wettropics.gov.au/PlanReview

Since then, we have prepared a list of proposed updates to the Management Plan. These updates are detailed in a statutory document: the Wet Tropics (Review) Amendment Management Plan 2019—Consultation Draft. All documents are available in full at wettropics.gov.au/PlanReview

This brochure summarises the key issues we received feedback on, as well as our proposed responses.

What are the key changes from phase 1?

The most significant finding from phase 1 consultation was that the existing Management Plan could not address all key issues raised by the community, such as climate change, biosecurity, tourism and the greater recognition of Rainforest Aboriginal People, in management of the Area.

Your feedback demonstrated that the Management Plan regulates activities, but provides limited direction about how the Authority and our partners will address broader strategic issues.

In response, the Authority proposes to produce the Wet Tropics World Heritage Plan in two parts (see chart 1, page 5):

- Wet Tropics Strategic Plan 2020–2030
- revised Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998.

Plan review phase 1



2,464
letters sent



19 Rainforest Aboriginal
organisations consulted



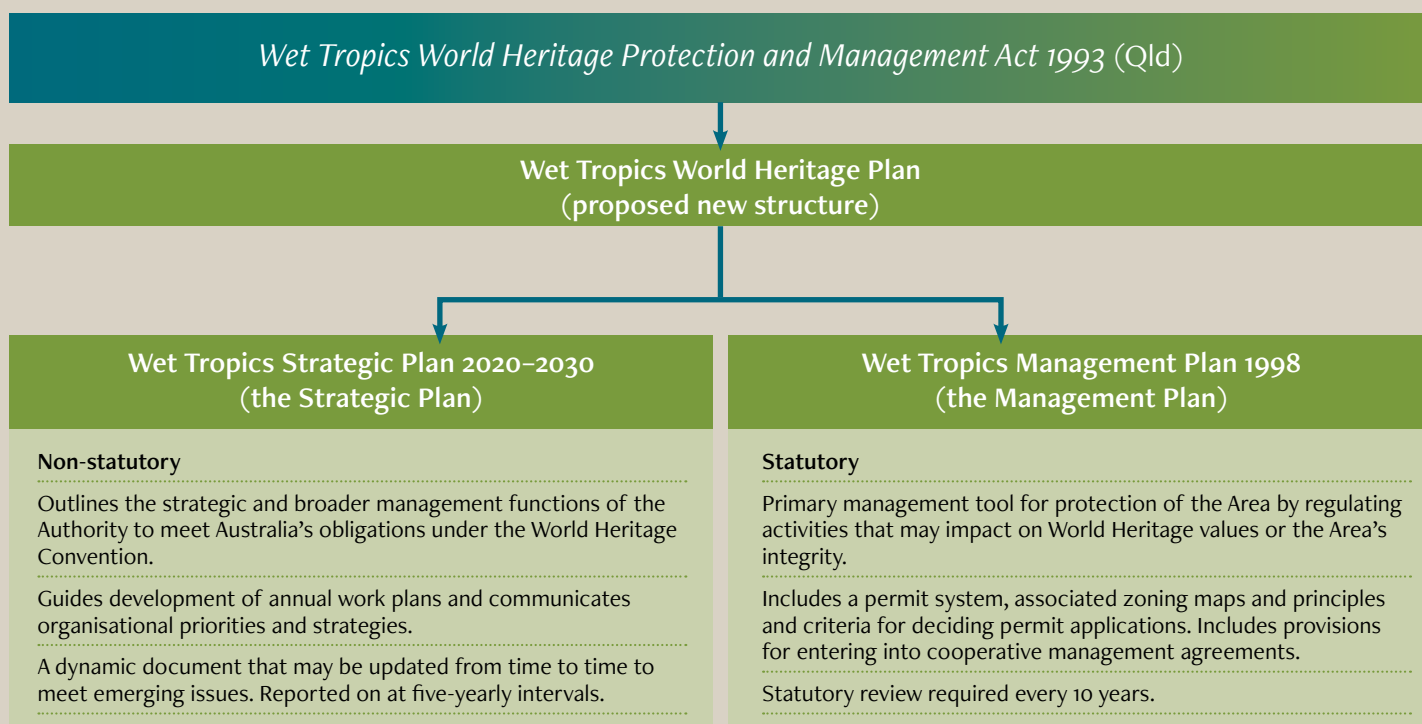
91 submissions received



60+
meetings and workshops



Chart 1: Proposed Management Plan



Have your say

The Authority is now undertaking a second round of public consultation. We’re seeking your feedback on the Management Plan and the newly-developed Strategic Plan to improve the management of the Area.

This is the final consultation phase before the last amendments are made and the Management Plan goes to the Queensland Government for approval in mid-2019.

Navigation aid

Throughout this brochure you will see references to the documents below which are available at wettropics.gov.au/PlanReview

- WTA** Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993 (Wet Tropics Act)
- MP** Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 (the Management Plan)
- SP** Wet Tropics Strategic Plan 2020–2030 (the Strategic Plan)
- PA** Wet Tropics (Review) Amendment Management Plan 2019—Consultation Draft (the Proposed Amendments)



An improved zoning system

The current Management Plan divides the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area into four zones that reflect varying ecological integrity, distance from disturbance and the activities that can be carried out in each zone.

Zone A: areas of high ecological integrity which make up the majority of the Area and are managed primarily for conservation and rehabilitation.

Zone B: areas of mostly high integrity that are recovering from past disturbance such as logging. Local governments may apply for rezoning to zone C for essential community services infrastructure.

Zone C: areas where existing community services infrastructure are located, including roads, powerlines, and dams.

Zone D: existing visitor sites, or those sites with potential for development of new visitor facilities.

During phase 1 consultations, the Authority proposed to simplify the zoning system. Key changes included:

- Rezoning areas that have recovered from past disturbance from zone B to zone A.
- Keeping a 500m, zone B area around zone C to act as a 'buffer' between the infrastructure in zone C and zone A.
- Applying a more consistent application of rules to zone C. Generally zone C will extend 50m either side of the centre-line of existing infrastructure. It will also recognise existing uses that pre-date the Management Plan.

You said

There was strong community support to rezone areas recovered from past disturbance, while a number of submissions from the tourism industry and state and local government agencies flagged that the existing zoning system was not flexible enough to accommodate future visitor and community infrastructure needs.

Phase 1 submissions

'... there is a strong case [...] to more clearly express tourism and recreation potential ...'


'... reclassification of zone B land to zone A land reflects the success of community and government efforts to protect the Area's outstanding universal values ...'

We listened

Proposed changes simplify the zoning system to three zones which more accurately reflect the management purpose, nature and uses for each zone. The Authority will increase zone A from 52% to 92.5% of the Area—recognition of the success of the current Management Plan in rehabilitating large, previously disturbed areas. Zone D sites will be incorporated into zone C sites to allow for new visitor opportunities.





Zone	Key changes made to the current zoning system
A	<p>Reclassifying large tracts of zone B land recovered from past disturbance to zone A (52% to 92.5%).</p> <p>Allowing limited infrastructure in zone A to enable visitors to better appreciate and enjoy these areas (see page 9).</p>
B	<p>Generally, zone B areas will lie between 50m–500m on either side of the centre-line of linear infrastructure such as roads, power lines and railways. Zone B creates a buffer between zone A and C.</p> <p>Queensland Government agencies (in addition to local councils) may now apply for rezoning from zone B to zone C to allow for essential community services infrastructure.</p>
C	<p>Zones C and D have been combined to provide greater flexibility to develop new visitor infrastructure to enhance presentation of the World Heritage Area (see page 9).</p> <p>Zone C will generally contain lands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • within 50m of the centre-line of the footprint of linear infrastructure such as roads, power lines and railways • within a 50m radius of infrastructure sites • within 50m from the edge of dams (100% capacity level) • which have been cleared and identified as being associated with particular existing use rights • which have existing visitor sites, or those identified with potential for development of new visitor facilities.
	Zone D will no longer exist as it will be incorporated within zone C.

Zoning exceptions for roads

State roads subject to land slips

Key state-controlled range roads which are prone to land slips will have a 100m zone C buffer (rather than 50m buffer) either side of the centre-line to allow for land slip stabilisation works.

Roads through land with exceptional ecological attributes

A small number of roads, through areas that have exceptional ecological attributes, fall within zone A and maintenance must occur within the existing road footprint. These roads include the Mount Lewis Road, Cairns Water Track, Mount Edith and Kauri Creek roads.

Want to know more?

Proposed Amendments

Zones (pages 6–13)

Interactive zoning maps wettropics.gov.au/PlanReview

PA

Management Plan

Zones (pages 6–10)

MP

Strategic Plan

Strategy 4: World-class tourism and recreation

Strategy 5: Minimise impacts

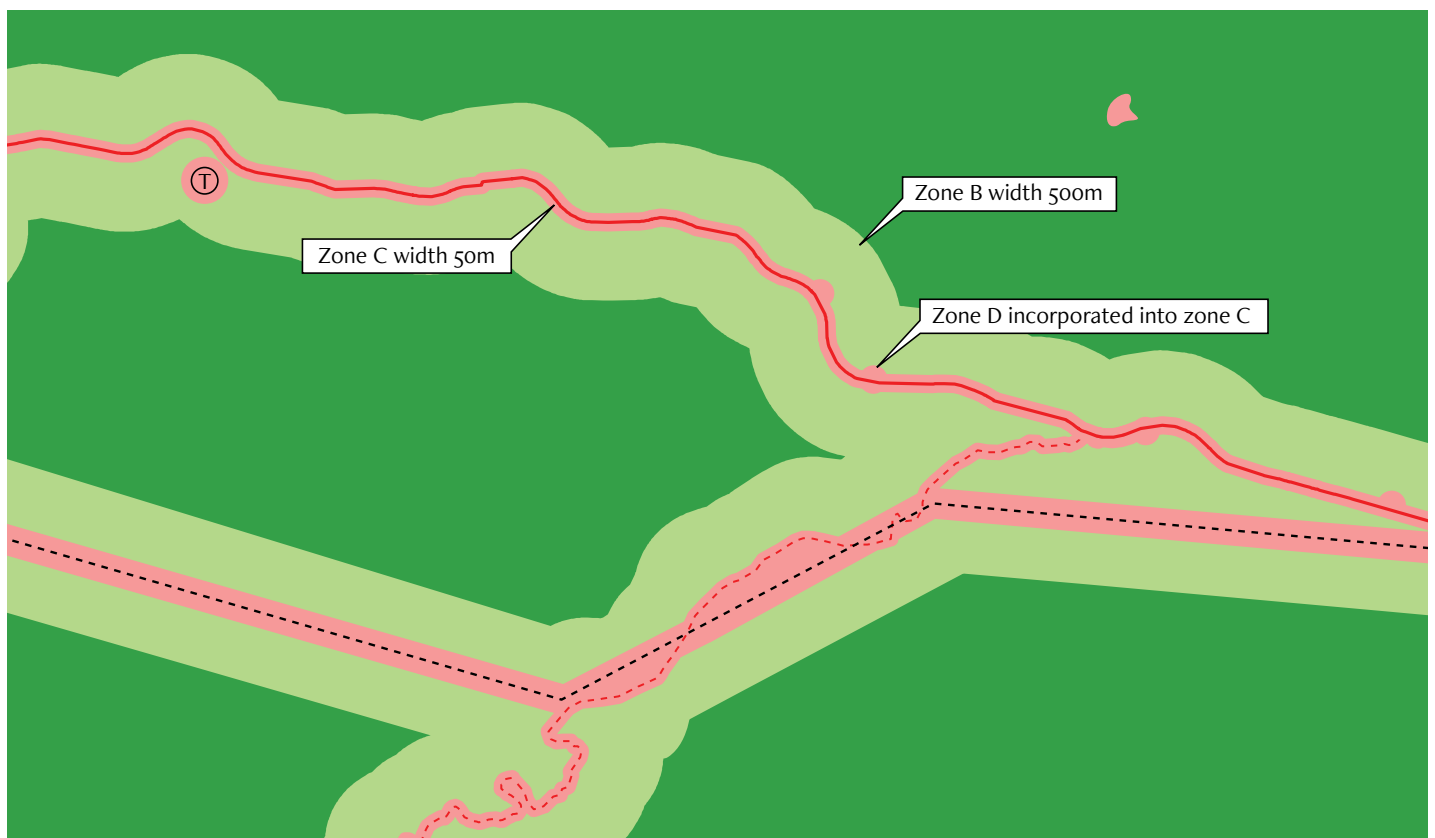
SP

Example of current zoning scheme



Example of proposed zoning scheme

Standardised and simplified approach to generating zones consistent with management intent.



Legend

Zones	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone D (now incorporated into zone C)
Roads	State-controlled road	Presentation road		
Infrastructure	Powerline	Tower		

Enabling appropriate visitor infrastructure

The Wet Tropics World Heritage Area is renowned for its natural beauty and incredible biodiversity and, more and more, people are seeking opportunities to visit. The Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 encourages visitor appreciation and enjoyment of the Area by allowing for varying degrees of infrastructure in each zone. However, the definition of the activities allowed in each zone may be difficult to interpret.

The Management Plan and Wet Tropics zoning maps currently restrict more developed visitor facilities such as roads, camping areas and boat ramps to zone D sites which were identified when the Management Plan first came into force in 1998.

You said

To improve the visitor experience within the Area, a large number of submissions supported greater flexibility in the Management Plan to allow for additional visitor infrastructure. Feedback highlighted some confusion around the type of infrastructure that could be developed in each zone, to support tourism and visitor experiences.

Phase 1 submissions

'... [we want to establish] Traditional Owner visitor and management sites in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area for the purposes of cultural and natural resource management, education, eco-friendly tourism activities ...'

'... would like addition of strict rules and criteria which will be used to decide whether a site has the potential for a future development of a visitor facility ...'

'... would like to see zone D include identification of sites to accommodate future visitor facilities such as the Wangetti Trail ...'

We listened

The proposed changes clarify the activities allowed in each zone, and provide greater opportunities for appropriate future visitor infrastructure in all zones. This includes the addition of the term 'limited visitor infrastructure' (e.g. walking or cycling tracks, small-scale toilet facilities, visitor shelters or camping platforms) which may be allowed under permit in any zone, provided it does not impact on World Heritage values.

Zone D sites will be incorporated into zone C, and the potential for appropriate visitor opportunities expanded to include 'developed visitor infrastructure' within this zone.

Developed visitor infrastructure:

- provides limited motor vehicle access for visitors (e.g. carparks)
- presents the Area to visitors (e.g. information shelters and lookouts)
- assists with visitor hygiene or safety (e.g. toilets and waste disposal facilities)
- enhances visitor experiences (e.g. camping areas, picnic facilities and nature-based tourist accommodation).

All proposals for visitor infrastructure will be assessed to minimise potential impacts on the World Heritage values. Visitor infrastructure, where possible, should enhance protection and presentation of World Heritage values.

Want to know more?

Proposed Amendments

Activities permitted in all zones (page 23)

Activities permitted in zone C (page 25)

Limited visitor infrastructure (page 60)

Developed visitor infrastructure (page 59)

Interactive zoning maps wettropics.gov.au/PlanReview

Management Plan

Activities permitted in all zones (page 18)

Activities permitted in zone C & D (page 19)

Strategic Plan

Strategy 4: World-class tourism and recreation

Strategy 5: Minimise impacts

Reducing impacts of community services infrastructure on values of the Area

The amended Management Plan continues to recognise that new community infrastructure, supporting essential services, may be required within the Area from time to time. Throughout the Management Plan review process, the Wet Tropics Management Authority has sought to identify amendments that will minimise potential impacts of new infrastructure on the values of the Area.

Community services infrastructure—such as roads, power lines and communications towers—is currently addressed in various sections of the Management Plan:

- **Zoning system**—zone C caters for community services infrastructure.
- **Schedule 1 of the Management Plan**—currently only local governments may apply for rezoning.
- **Permits system**—maintenance and construction of infrastructure and potential impacts on World Heritage values are managed under the permit system.

You said

Submissions generally supported this proposal, providing that maintenance of existing infrastructure was exempt from the new requirements.

Queensland Government agencies responsible for infrastructure sought the right to request the rezoning of land from zone B to zone C to allow for essential community services infrastructure (currently only local governments can request these amendments). For example if the Department of Transport and Main Roads needed to upgrade or realign a section of state-controlled roads for safety purposes, they could apply to the Authority to change a small area of zone B to zone C for this purpose.

Phase 1 submissions

'... support all infrastructure to be assessed against section 65 and would like clarification on how general maintenance is defined ...'

'... we support that section 65 would not apply to general maintenance works. Clear guidelines around what constitutes upgrading versus maintenance will be required to ensure this is practical ...'

We listened

Proposed Amendments include:

- An additional level of scrutiny in the permit assessment process for proposed new infrastructure. Section 65 of the Management Plan currently prescribes some additional permit requirements in relation to building or maintaining a road only. Section 65 will now apply to building (but not maintaining) all community service infrastructure in the Area. Under this approach, the Authority may issue a permit for building community services infrastructure if the activity would not affect the integrity of the Area, or if there is no alternative. All infrastructure agencies already have permits for maintenance and these activities will be exempt from the additional scrutiny under section 65.
- State Government entities (in addition to local governments) will be able to apply to rezone land from zone B to zone C for essential community services infrastructure.



Want to know more?

Proposed Amendments

Rezoning applications—schedule 1 (pages 7 & 13)

Building community services infrastructure (pages 40–41)

PA

Management Plan

Rezoning applications—schedule 1 (page 7)

Building community services infrastructure (pages 34–35)

MP

Strategic Plan

Strategy 2: Support Rainforest Aboriginal People

Strategy 3: Involve the community

Strategy 5: Minimise impacts

SP

Amendments to regulation of domestic activities

The Wet Tropics Management Plan recognises the private properties and leases that exist throughout the Area and the right of property owners to live on and manage these properties, in ways that are aligned with the values of the Area. The Management Plan currently allows a freehold landholder or a native title holder (for example with exclusive native title rights) to carry out domestic activities under a permit, including:

- building a house
- clearing to provide access to a house
- establishing a garden or orchard (other than for commercial purposes)
- extracting water for domestic use.

During phase 1 consultation the Authority proposed expanding the activities included in the term 'domestic activities' to allow for the installation of domestic electricity, water supply and communications under a permit. This was in recognition that installation of these services is often essential for people to live on their properties.

During the review process, an inconsistency was identified within the current Management Plan. The inconsistency may result in a situation where the Authority would be compelled to issue a permit for more than one residence on an allotment even if this might impact on the values of the Area.

You said

Submissions during phase 1 consultations generally supported the expansion of the definition for domestic activities. This included strong feedback from Rainforest Aboriginal People about aspirations to return to country, including housing and other activities.

Phase 1 submissions

'... [we] desire to return to live and work on country—need to provide infrastructure to support aspirations ...'

'... [we] intend to build an authorised rangers residence in the zone and seek assistance from the Authority to make this a reality ...'

We listened

The Authority has kept the proposed changes from phase 1 consultations, allowing the installation of domestic electricity, water supply and communications under a permit.

Additional changes have been proposed to the Management Plan clarifying that the Authority must issue a permit to build one residence per allotment only. Property owners may apply for a permit to build additional residences. However, in considering these applications, the Authority must ensure that the number of dwellings does not impact on the values of the Area through loss of visual amenity, excessive clearing of native vegetation etc.



Want to know more?

Proposed Amendments

Domestic activities (page 26 & pages 37–39)

Domestic activities—building additional residence (page 39)

PA

Management Plan

Domestic activities (pages 19–20 & pages 33–34)

MP

Strategic Plan

Strategy 2: Support Rainforest Aboriginal People

Strategy 3: Involve the community

Strategy 5: Minimise impacts

SP



Recognising Rainforest Aboriginal tradition

The preamble to the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993* (the Wet Tropics Act) acknowledges the significant contribution that Rainforest Aboriginal People can make to the management of cultural and natural heritage within the Area. The Wet Tropics Act also states that the Authority must, as far as practicable, have regard to Aboriginal tradition and 'liaise, and cooperate, with Aboriginal people particularly concerned with land in the Area'.

You said

Feedback from phase 1 consultation identified a strong desire to strengthen consideration of Rainforest Aboriginal tradition and native title rights and interests in management of the Area.

We listened

Greater recognition of Aboriginal tradition and Rainforest Aboriginal People's culture, their involvement in management of the Area and benefit sharing have been addressed through the proposed amendments to the Management Plan and actions within the new Strategic Plan, particularly under Strategy 2 (Support Rainforest Aboriginal People).

The Management Plan and native title rights

Native title and other Rainforest Aboriginal land interests cover 87.5% of the Area. Native title recognises, under common law, a set of rights and interests over land or waters where Aboriginal people practised traditional lore and customs prior to European settlement. This may include hunting, gathering and fishing.

In phase 1 consultation, the Authority proposed to clarify beyond doubt that the Management Plan does not affect native title rights.

You said

Submissions supported the need for clarification that the Management Plan does not impact on native title rights and interests.

We listened

The Authority has ensured that the Proposed Amendments meet the requirements of the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth) and uphold Rainforest Aboriginal People's native title rights:

- None of the proposed changes affect native title rights prescribed under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cwlth), section 211. A permit is not required to exercise these native title rights, which may include hunting, fishing, gathering or cultural or spiritual activities.
- Provisions under the Management Plan apply to native title holders the same as they apply to a person with freehold title.

Assessment of permit applications and better recognition of Aboriginal tradition

To protect the World Heritage values, Wet Tropics permits are required for a range of activities such as new roads, communication towers or pipelines within the Area. When assessing permit applications, the Management Plan requires the Authority to consider the likely effect of the proposed activity on a native title holder.

You said

During phase 1 consultation, Rainforest Aboriginal People sought clarity about how they are consulted in the Authority's permit assessment process.

Wet Tropics Strategic Plan 2020–2030—Strategy 2: Support Rainforest Aboriginal People

Strategy 2 details include:

- **Action 2.1:** Implement an Indigenous rights-based approach to World Heritage management in the Wet Tropics
- **Action 2.2:** Support and coordinate implementation of a refreshed Regional Agreement
- **Action 2.3:** Empower Rainforest Aboriginal People's well-being and livelihoods
- **Action 2.4:** Support Rainforest Aboriginal People to uphold and strengthen their primary substantive rights and their custodial relationships between their peoples and customary landscapes

For more information and to see the actions for each of these strategies visit the Authority's website wettropics.gov.au/strategy-2



We listened

The proposed changes will make it clear how Rainforest Aboriginal People are consulted during the permit assessment process and how the Authority considers the impacts of a proposed activity on Aboriginal tradition.

Existing guidelines for consulting Rainforest Aboriginal People particularly concerned with land in the Area (section 62 guideline, number 3) have been updated and a draft will be available for review during the phase 2 consultation period at wettropics.gov.au/PlanReview

In addition, the Management Plan will include a new section which applies to assessing a permit application. This section requires the Authority to consider the effects of a proposed permit decision on Aboriginal tradition.

Cooperative management agreements (CMAs) and planning processes

CMAs are negotiated agreements between the Authority, native title holders and landholders to allow activities to occur, in a planned way, which may be inconsistent with what is generally allowed in zones under the Management Plan.

For Rainforest Aboriginal People, this may include facilitating return to country, and allowing community development activities that might not normally be allowed under the Management Plan. The Authority can enter into a CMA as long as it contributes to mutually beneficial outcomes (i.e. the World Heritage Area's primary goal to 'protect, conserve, rehabilitate, present and transmit to future generations of the World Heritage Area'; and Rainforest Aboriginal People's sustainable livelihoods and economic development).

You said

Rainforest Aboriginal organisations expressed an interest in how Aboriginal planning processes (such as masterplans and other Indigenous land management plans) might be recognised as CMAs, and how CMA processes align with other local government planning processes.

Phase 1 submissions

'... all permitting for infrastructure should be jointly managed with registered native title bodies corporate ...'

Concerns were also raised that the proposed amendments to the zoning maps do not show existing CMAs and that local governments may refuse development applications due to the absence of CMAs on the zoning maps.

We listened

The Authority has now developed a draft Cooperative Management Agreement Information Guide for Rainforest Aboriginal People to help groups understand the requirements of a CMA. It is available for review during phase 2 consultations at wettropics.gov.au/PlanReview

In addition, the Authority will include all current and future CMAs on online zoning maps to show that different Management Plan conditions apply to these areas. CMAs will also be available for inspection on the Authority's website. This ensures that local governments are aware of any changes to what activities are allowed in the CMA area when assessing a development application.

Zoning map considerations

Zone B and zone C land within the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal local government area and the Aboriginal community areas of Mona Mona (via Kuranda) and Buddabadoo (via Yarrabah) will remain as zone B and zone C in consideration of aspirations for potential future community development in these areas.

Want to know more?

Proposed Amendments

Native title (pages 13–14 & 22) | CMAs (pages 28–30)

Deciding permit applications (pages 35–36)

Zoning maps, CMAs and permits wettropics.gov.au/PlanReview

PA

Management Plan

Native title (pages 11–12 & 17–18) | CMAs (pages 21–24)

MP

Wet Tropics Act

Aboriginal tradition (pages 5–9)

WTA

Strategic Plan

Strategy 1: Climate change and other threats

Strategy 2: Support Rainforest Aboriginal People

Strategy 3: Involve the community

Strategy 4: World-class tourism and recreation

Strategy 5: Minimise impacts

SP

Roads in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area—a simpler system

Beryl Davis © Wet Tropics Images

Current zoning maps depict a series of road classifications for use by motor vehicles within the Area. These classifications reflected the needs of land managers, infrastructure agencies, visitors, the tourism industry, researchers and the community when the Management Plan was originally created. Some old roads have become overgrown, eroded and unsafe due to lack of maintenance.

During phase 1 consultations the Authority proposed to simplify the road classification system, making it clearer where motor vehicles are allowed.



You said

Phase 1 consultation submissions from state and local government and the wider community indicated that the road classifications system, and the Authority's role in managing roads and regulating vehicle access, is unclear. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) also highlighted that they manage all roads on their estate under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and that the Authority have a duplicative role under the Management Plan to issue permits to operate motor vehicles on management and presentation restricted roads in protected areas.

A number of submissions from the tourism and recreation sectors also opposed removing certain disused roads (mostly in a state of disrepair) from zoning maps.

Phase 1 submissions

'... require clarification about road definitions supports a permit system for presentation (restricted) roads ...'

'... consider the current closure and neglect of many logging tracks and fire trails in the Tablelands to be a waste of a valuable resource ...'

'... roads, where appropriate, should be gated and closed seasonally to reduce degradation, for safety or maintenance reasons ...'

We listened

The proposed changes simplify the road classification system and adopt terminology recognised by local and state government agencies and reduce red tape by removing duplication in the permitting process.

Under this approach, motor vehicles will be allowed on any road depicted on a Wet Tropics zoning map without a Wet Tropics permit.

- Presentation (restricted) roads, which previously required a permit to operate a motor vehicle, will be combined into presentation roads, and seasonal closures (e.g. in the wet season), if required, will be handled by respective land managers through signs and gates.
- The Authority will no longer regulate the operation of motor vehicles on roads in protected areas. This will be managed by QPWS, subject to provisions under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.
- The Authority will only handle permits for activities such as infrastructure maintenance, conservation management and research on roads used for management purposes. These roads will no longer appear on zoning maps.
- Several disused roads will be removed from zoning maps due to safety concerns. However, to capture the strong interest from the tourism and recreation sectors, these roads will be identified for future presentation opportunities in the Strategic Plan (see map and action 4.4).

Classification of particular roads can be viewed on the Wet Tropics zoning maps through our interactive mapping tool via wettropics.gov.au/PlanReview

Want to know more?

Proposed Amendments

Activities allowed in all zones (page 16)

Activities permitted in all zones (page 25)

PA

Management Plan

Activities allowed in all zones (page 14)

Activities permitted in all zones (page 17)

MP

Strategic Plan

Strategy 4: World-class tourism and recreation

SP



Summary of proposed road classification amendments

Phase 1 consultation—proposed road classification	Phase 2 consultation—amended road classification
Highway Roads which form part of Queensland’s road network.	State-controlled road Roads which form part of Queensland’s road network.
Local access road Significant roads managed by local governments for public transport.	Local government road Public roads managed by local government.
Presentation (unrestricted) Roads which provide opportunities for presentation of World Heritage values to vehicle-based visitors.	Presentation road Roads managed for the purposes of presenting the Area to the public.
Presentation (restricted) Roads which provide opportunities for presentation but where public access may be restricted and a permit is required.	‘Presentation’ and ‘presentation (restricted)’ roads under the existing system will simply become ‘presentation roads’, to be handled by respective land managers.
Management road Roads to provide access for management for the purpose of conservation, scientific research or maintenance of community services infrastructure. A permit is currently required to operate a motor vehicle on a management road.	No longer depicted on zoning maps. The Authority will continue to manage permits on these roads.



Undesirable plants and animals in the Area

Undesirable plants and animals under the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998 (the Management Plan) are those which can threaten World Heritage values, particularly if they invade native forests or waterways, disrupt ecosystems or threaten native wildlife in the Area. Cultivating, keeping or moving these plants and animals is regulated in the Management Plan. A full list of undesirable plants and animals can be found in schedule 2 of the Management Plan and includes:

- some ornamental plants, introduced timber species, fruit-bearing plants, pasture legumes or grasses, and aquatic plants
- some exotic animals kept as livestock or pets, aquarium species or European honey bees.

Currently, all zones allow undesirable animals to be kept outside of the rainforest on private or native title lands, and domesticated animals such as cattle, goats and deer can be grazed on land other than in a rainforest. Fish stocking is currently regulated under the *Fisheries Act 1994*, and not under the Management Plan despite the fact that stocking certain species may have impact on the World Heritage values of the Area.

During phase 1 consultation, the Authority proposed:

- to amend the list of undesirable plants and animals in schedule 2 of the Management Plan
- limit grazing of animals in the Area to cattle
- prohibit keeping of undesirable animals anywhere in the Area with the exception of cats and dogs
- regulate fish stocking to better address potential impacts on World Heritage values or integrity.

You said

Most submissions supported the changes to the list of undesirable plants and animals. However, there were concerns (both for and against) from community members about how cats and dogs might be kept in the Area. Regulating the moving of fish or crustaceans was also supported provided it did not duplicate the fish stocking permit under the *Fisheries Act 1994*.

We listened

The Authority has proposed changes that will balance the social and economic benefits of keeping or moving some plants and animals against their potential impacts. In particular, the Authority is:

- avoiding duplication in the regulation of pest plants and animals by only updating schedule 2 with undesirable species with invasive potential that are not listed under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*
- creating conditions for the keeping of dogs, cats, honey bees or cattle in the Area
- avoiding duplication in the regulation of fish stocking through collaboration with partners to ensure fish and crustaceans do not impact upon the Area.

16 Phase 1 submissions

'... do not support keeping domestic pets, however difficult to enforce ...'

'... dogs and cats should be limited to two and de-sexed ...'

'... support regulation of translocation and release [fish stocking] of large predatory fish outside their natural range ...'

'... undesirable plants and animals, in schedule 2 [...] possibly update to align more closely to the terminology of the Biosecurity Act ...'





Key changes to undesirable plants and animals	
Plants	<p>Updating the list of undesirable plants in schedule 2 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • remove species already regulated under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i> • add a number of exotic and potentially invasive plants—especially ornamentals such as coffee (<i>Coffea arabica</i>) and bamboo (<i>Bambusa balcooa</i>).
Animals	<p>Updating the list of undesirable animals in schedule 2 to remove species already regulated under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2014</i>.</p> <p>No undesirable animals will be allowed within the Area except for dogs, cats, honey bees and cattle. Keeping these animals will be an allowed activity, subject to the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cats and dogs must be kept in a way that doesn't threaten native wildlife. • Cats and dogs would be allowed in a house within the rainforest as long as they are confined within the enclosed land around the residence. • Working dogs may be brought into the Area for conservation or management purposes under permit. • Honey bees may be kept on private land outside of a rainforest. Bees must be kept in a way that minimizes swarming. • Grazing of cattle outside of the rainforest may be permitted. Other grazing of undesirable animals such as deer or goats will not be permitted. <p>Please note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrictions placed on the keeping of animals under the Management Plan will not impact upon native title rights as defined in the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> (Cwlth). • Where animals were kept prior to the proposed changes to the Management Plan (e.g keeping pigs, grazing animals outside rainforest) the land holder may apply to the Authority for a permit to continue this activity.
Fish stocking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A permit will be needed for fish stocking within the Area. • The Authority will work with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to ensure that permit procedures are properly aligned and to avoid duplication.



Want to know more?

Proposed Amendments

Activities allowed in all zones (pages 15–18)

Keeping dogs and bees (pages 20–22)

Activities permitted in all zones (pages 23–24)

Transitional provisions (pages 42–44)

Undesirable animals (pages 52–57)

PA

Management Plan

Activities allowed in all zones (page 14)

Activities permitted in all zones (pages 18–19)

Undesirable animals (pages 49–52)

MP

Strategic Plan

Strategy 1: Climate change and other threats

Strategy 2: Support Rainforest Aboriginal People

Strategy 3: Involve the community

Strategy 5: Minimise impacts

SP

Reconfiguration or subdivision of an allotment

Currently, the subdivision of an allotment (lot) is regulated under the *Planning Act 2016* and determined by local governments. Subdivisions can result in additional infrastructure including houses, fences, driveways, firebreaks and other services (electricity and water etc.), and may increase noise and the number of vehicles. This can result in increased disturbance to wildlife, negative human-wildlife interactions, impacts on wildlife movement, excessive clearance of vegetation, and the introduction of undesirable plants and animals.

Subdivisions in the Area may not lead to problems in some cases. However, the Authority is concerned about the potential for decisions on subdivision applications under the *Planning Act 2016* not adequately taking into consideration all potential impacts of subdivision on World Heritage values, particularly cumulative impacts that may damage the integrity of the Area.

At present, once an allotment is created and a landholder seeks to build a house or undertake a domestic activity (such as clearing to provide access to the house or establishing a garden or orchard), the Authority must issue a permit under the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998.

During phase 1 consultations, the Authority proposed to regulate the potential impacts of subdivisions.

You said

Submissions from local governments and the wider community during phase 1 consultation were mixed. Concerns about duplication of regulation were raised by local government, and the need to ensure future subdivisions do not impact on the integrity of the Area was also acknowledged.

Phase 1 submissions

'... subdivisions should only be subject to local government planning scheme with the Authority as referral agency ...'

'... subdivisions, supports regulation and proposes additional areas be protected ...'

We listened

To ensure potential impacts to the Area are managed, the Authority is proposing a practical approach to regulating subdivision, similar to the way in which we assess other activities allowed under permit. Where a subdivision poses no significant impact on the Area, it will be allowed without a permit. However, where there are potential impacts the Authority will regulate subdivision through a Wet Tropics permit. For subdivision on Aboriginal land, the Authority may also consider approvals through other planning processes such as a Master Plan.

The Authority will also consult with state and local governments to coordinate approval processes to limit duplication of regulation and approvals.



An allotment in the Area

Want to know more?

Proposed Amendments

Activities permitted in all zones (page 25)

Transitional provisions for reconfiguration of a lot (page 45)

PA

Strategic Plan

Strategy 5: Minimise impacts

SP



Other issues considered

Environmental offsets

An environmental offset is an action that compensates for any unavoidable adverse impacts of a development. They ensure that a development has ‘no net adverse impact’ by providing environmental benefits or gain elsewhere.

Offsets are generally a last resort option for addressing residual impacts of development, after efforts have been undertaken to avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts.

Currently the Management Plan has no provisions to apply environmental offsets. During phase 1 consultation, the Authority was considering amendments to allow for environmental offsets as part of permit conditions.

You said

Submissions generally supported the proposal to introduce environmental offsets, but did not indicate a preferred model. The Australian Government requested that offsets be applied under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Phase 1 submissions

‘... supports the Authority considering the amendment of section 65 to allow for a hierarchy of options including that where a residual net loss occurs ...’

‘... supportive but only as a last resort ...’

We listened

Following further consideration, the Authority has decided not to introduce its own offset provisions but to rely on the Australian Government’s offsets framework under the EPBC Act.

The EPBC Act environmental offsets policy framework applies when an activity or action will have a significant residual impact on a protected community, such as the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. This approach is consistent with both the Great Barrier Reef and Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage areas’ approaches to offsets.

Mining

Mining is currently allowed under both the *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993* (the Wet Tropics Act) and the Management Plan, where a licence, permit or other authority has been granted under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*. Mining has occurred in the past and one Mining Lease and one Exploration Minerals Permit remain current. However, both contain conditions that prohibit mining activity within or directly adjacent to the Area.

In phase 1 consultation we proposed to remove mining from the Management Plan.

You said

Prohibition of mining within the Area received strong community support during phase 1 consultation.

Phase 1 submissions

‘... [at our workshop] nearly all believed that mining should be banned ...’

‘... we are interested at working with the Authority to strengthen mining bans where necessary ...’

Proposed approach

The Authority is committed to seeking amendments to the Wet Tropics Act to prohibit mining. The Authority will undertake a review of the Wet Tropics Act once the Management Plan review has been completed.

Want to know more?

Management Plan

Mining in the Area (page 14)

MP

Wet Tropics Act

Mining in the Area (page 27)

WTA

Strategic Plan

Strategy 5: Minimise impacts

SP

Review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan

Have your say!

Submissions close 18 April 2019

How to make a submission

We invite you to help us prepare the final Wet Tropics Management Plan by providing your comments and suggestions on the changes made.

Submissions must be in writing and include the name and address of the submitter. Submissions can be made through the following channels:

- online at wettropics.gov.au/PlanReview
- in writing to the Wet Tropics Management Authority, PO Box 2050, Cairns QLD 4870
- via email to wettropics@wtma.qld.gov.au

Find out more about the Wet Tropics World Heritage Plan

Online resources can be found at wettropics.gov.au/PlanReview, including:

- the Wet Tropics Strategic Plan 2020–2030
- Wet Tropics (Review) Amendment Management Plan 2019—Consultation Draft (Proposed Amendments)
- Wet Tropics interactive zoning maps
- supporting documents.

Hard copy zoning maps and information brochures are available at:

Wet Tropics Management Authority
Cairns Port Authority building
Corner Grafton and Hartley streets
Cairns QLD 4870

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